

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process comprising
coating a pipe with a coating material comprising one or more pulverulent fusible
polymers to form a coated pipe having a polymer coating,
melting the polymer coating to form a pipe having ~~smooth~~ a melt coating, and
cooling to form a pipe having a hardened coating,
wherein the pipe is not treated with chromate and
wherein melting comprises heating with ~~a medium frequency~~ an induction coil at a
frequency of from 2,000 to 10,000 Hz.

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material
comprises a polyamide.

Claim 3 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material
comprises at least one of nylon-11 or nylon-12.

Claim 4 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material
comprises nylon-12 in the form of a precipitated powder.

Claim 5 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating
has a thickness of from 50 to 1,000 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed
30%.

Claim 6 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 300 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 30%.

Claim 7 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 300 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 20%.

Claim 8 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising applying a primer to a pipe to form a primed pipe and baking the primed pipe.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the primed pipe is baked with ~~a medium-frequency an~~ induction coil at a frequency of from 2,000 to 10,000 Hz.

Claim 10 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the primer comprises a solvent, and baking comprises evaporating the solvent.

Claim 11 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 10, further comprising dissipating the evaporated solvent with a radial fan.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pipe is coated with the coating material in a fluidized-bed coating basin comprising ~~a medium-frequency an~~ induction coil incorporated in said fluidized-bed coating basin.

Claim 13 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fluidized-bed coating basin further comprises an air flush system positioned above the pipe and one or more metal flow-guide panels positioned below the pipe.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
preheating the pipe with ~~a medium-frequency~~ an induction coil before coating the pipe with the coating material.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
smoothing the coated pipe having a polymer coating by heating with ~~a medium-frequency~~ an induction coil before melting the polymer coating.

Claim 16 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
applying an adhesion promoter to the pipe, where the adhesion promoter is in the form of a suspension, a solution or a powder.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the cooling to form a pipe having a hardened coating comprises
pre-cooling the pipe having a ~~smooth~~-melt coating with an air flush system ~~before~~ then cooling with water to form the pipe having a hardened coating.

Claim 18 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 8, further comprising
cleaning the pipe before applying the primer.

Claim 19 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein only the external surface of the pipe is coated.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A pipe coated by the process as claimed in claim 1, comprising a primer layer and a polymer coating layer comprising a fusible polymer.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A pipe coated by a chromate-free process, comprising a primer layer and a polymer coating layer applied in a fluidized-bed coating process.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 15 and 17 are currently amended.

Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18 and 19 are original.

Claims 20 and 21 are withdrawn.

Upon entry of the amendment Claims 1-21 will be pending with Claims 1-19 under active consideration.

The amendments to Claims 1 and 9 are supported on page 5, lines 3-10 of the specification. Here medium-frequency induction heating is discussed with end points at 2,000 and 10,000 Hz specifically noted. Accordingly, the specification implicitly supports that the range of 2,000 to 10,000 Hz is a medium frequency for induction heating.

The amendments to Claims 12, 14, 15 and 17 are supported by the claims as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the amendments.